

## ABSTRACT

5 The present invention is a novel method and apparatus for initiating a reverse link intergenerational handoff in a CDMA communication system. The reverse link intergenerational handoff initialization method and apparatus of the present invention measures and compares parameters between a serving base station of one generation and a target base station of another generation to determine the best possible handoff initiation time instant for performing a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff. The present invention can utilize one of several embodiments to determine the best possible handoff initiation time instant. A pilot signal strength embodiment of the present invention determines a handoff initiation time instant based upon the total pilot signal strength of both a serving and target base station. The  $E_b/N_t$  embodiment determines a handoff initiation time instant based upon  $E_b/N_t$  (ratio of average power per bit to total received power spectral density) values of both a serving and a target base station. The method and apparatus of the present invention decreases the probability of degraded or dropped calls during intergenerational handoffs.

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